

**St Mary Rehabilitation Working Group
Meeting Notes for June 23, 2004
Hook's Hideaway, Babb, MT**

Welcome and Opening Remarks: Opening Prayer presented by Earl Old Person of the Blackfeet Nation. Members present included; Lt. Governor Ohs (Chair), Steve Page, Matt McCann, Larry Mires, Gary Anderson, Randy Perez, Max Maddox, Dolores Plumage, Marko Manoukin, Paul Tuss, Randy Reed (late arrival) Bud Mavencamp (for Kevin Salsbury), Dave Peterson (for Jeff Jenson), Larry Martinson (for Mike Barthel), Irvin Carlson (for Mike Tatsey), Paul Azevedo.

Deby Murch, Glasgow Irrigation Dist. has taken a job in Billings, and submitted a letter of resignation to Paul Azevedo that was read at the meeting.

Past Meeting Notes: Paul Azevedo went over notes from meeting on May 26 at Ft. Belknap Agency. Working Group members approved notes as written.

Updates:

- **Executive Committee meetings** – Paul Azevedo summarized notes from meetings of Executive Committee:
 - Matt McCann, Randy Reed, John Tubbs, Anne Yates, and Paul Azevedo held a conference call on June 4th. Paul Tuss, Dolores Plumage and Steve Page were unable to participate.
 - Developed strategy for addressing the Leg. Finance Committee on June 18.
 - Developed agenda for today's meeting.
 - Steve Page, Paul Tuss and Randy Reed met again with John, Anne, and Paul after the Legislative Finance Committee meeting on June 18th. Dolores and Matt were unable to participate because Paul had forgotten to notify them of the meeting.
 - Committee discussed some the larger issues on the horizon such as
 - How the Working Group should handle the transition to a new administration in Helena.
 - The need for the Working Group to develop an effective lobbying presence in D.C.
 - How to position the St. Mary rehabilitation project with the Rocky Boy – Northcentral MT Regional Water project and the Ft. Peck – Dry Prairie Regional Water project so that all three projects are working together back in D.C. rather than competing against each other.
- Several members of the Blackfeet Tribe raised concern that the Tribe was not represented on the Executive Committee. There was discussion on how and why the Executive Committee was formed. Several Working Group members pointed out that Mike Tatsey (Blackfeet representative) was not present at the May 26th meeting when the Executive Committee was formed. Therefore there was no one to speak for the Tribe. This underscored the need for Working Group members to attend every meeting or have a designated alternate attend for them.
- Working Group members agreed the Blackfeet Tribe should be represented on Executive Committee. Working Group passed a motion to extend an invitation to Mike Tatsey. Irvin Carlson said the Tribal Council would appoint an alternate for Mike Tatsey.
- **Meeting between USBR, DNRC and Tribes.** John Tubbs reported that USBR, DNRC, Blackfeet Tribe and Tribes of Ft. Belknap held a conference call on June 7th:
 - Meeting was part of ongoing information exchange between State and USBR. Reclamation is working hard to provide State with information.
 - Jamie McCartney has been named acting director, USBR Montana Area Office.

- Discussed having USBR participate more actively in Working Group meetings as owner/operator of St. Mary Facilities. USBR will become regular part of Working Group meeting agendas and provide monthly operational updates.
- **Legislative Finance Subcommittee Meeting on June 18th.**
 - Lt. Gov. Ohs reported that the Legislative Finance Subcommittee approved DNRC's request that the State provide \$100,000 from the Environmental Contingency Account for use on the St. Mary Rehabilitation Project.
 - Attorney with State Legislative Services Division questioned whether or not DNRC's request met all requirements for use of the funds. Sticking point was whether or not the "need was anticipated".
 - Governor Martz supports DNRC's request, but since the question was raised by Legislative Services Division, she felt she needed support from Legislative Finance Subcommittee before moving ahead.
 - Finance Subcommittee gave its unanimous approval to use funds. Project enjoys good support from both sides of the aisle. Subcommittee also passed a motion to send a letter to the State's Congressional Delegation asking them to do all they can in support of the project.
 - Larry Mires, Steve Page, Randy Reed, Marko Manoukin, and Paul Tuss made the trip to Helena to testify before the Subcommittee on behalf of the project. John Tubbs was instrumental in coordinating the logistics for their testimony.
- **St. Mary System Operations Update:** – Dick Long (USBR) provided an update on current operations of the St. Mary system:
 - Releases from Sherburne Reservoir started on March 29th. Diversion into St. Mary Canal began the same day.
 - From March 29 – June 30, approximately 85,880 ac-ft had been diverted (based on Reclamation records).
 - Inflow to Lake Sherburne from April 1 – May 31 was approximately 42,300 ac-ft (100% of normal).
 - Forecast releases for June – July is 44,000 ac-ft (about 72% of normal).
 - Active storage in Lake Sherburne is 36,000 ac-ft (66% full and about 76% of average for this date).
 - Current inflow to Lake Sherburne is 340 cfs. Current outflow is 400 cfs. Current diversion in St. Mary Canal is 600 cfs, which is the combined flow of releases from Lake Sherburne (currently 400cfs) and U.S. share of flow from St. Mary River (currently 200 cfs.) Cool weather has decreased irrigation demands.
 - Reclamation completed routine maintenance prior to start of irrigation season.
 - Reclamation spent about \$17,000 in time and materials on some emergency repairs to chute section of several drop structures.
 - Milk River Joint Board of Control has awarded contract to replace expansion joints on St. Mary River Siphon. Work will be done in the off-season and is being funded by a grant from DNRC.
 - Question was raised regarding seepage losses from canal. USBR estimates canal loses about 50 – 70 cfs (long-term average) in the first 9 miles between the headgate and inlet to St. Mary Siphons. Some Tribal members are concerned that if canal is fixed, local wetlands will dry up and local aquifers will be negatively impacted. USBR has not quantified amount of local recharge that can be attributed to canal losses.
 - Question was raised about USBR following TERO rules when doing work on drop structures. Since USBR used their own equipment, the work was not subject to TERO. When USBR puts repair work out for competitive bid, the contract states that all TERO guidelines must be followed.

- Questions were raised regarding numerous Blackfeet concerns, including water rights, Tribal involvement in the process, and condition of Sherburne Dam.
- Paul Azevedo acknowledged there are many complex and interrelated issues surrounding rehabilitation of the St. Mary's. The Working Group is only addressing the process of securing federal funding to rehabilitate the infrastructure of the St. Mary system, and addressing Tribal concerns with the environmental damage related to operation of the system. Tribal water rights are being addressed through negotiations between the Blackfeet Tribe, BIA, federal government, MT Reserved Water Rights Compact Commission and others. The Working Group has tried to involve the Blackfeet Tribe as an equal partner in the project from the very beginning. On February 3rd, 2004, Lt. Governor Ohs and Paul met with the Tribal Council in Browning to discuss the project and to express the State's desire for the Blackfeet to be involved as an equal partner. Issues with Sherburne dam have to be handled by USBR. Paul stressed that we are at the very beginning of an extremely long process. There will be lots of issue involved. The Working Group will address some of those issues, but some of them will have to be handled through other forums.
- Irvin Carlson (Chairman, Blackfeet Tribal Water Committee) stated that the Blackfeet Tribe has been involved in the process from the beginning. State met with Tribal Council at Tribal Headquarters in Browning. Mike Tatsey has been attending the Working Group meetings. State calls Mike and keeps him informed on all things. He also stressed that settlement of Tribal water rights is a separate issue being negotiated between the Tribe, state, and federal government.
- **Report on MAIC grant** – Paul Tuss (Bearpaw Development Corp.) MAIC stands for Montana Agriculture Innovation Center. Grant money is available to assist with value added agriculture by partnering regional economic development centers with Montana's universities and agricultural producers throughout the state. Paul T. is exploring the possibility of using MAIC grant funds for hiring an in-basin coordinator for the St. Mary project. Looks like it might be a possible funding source. He will need to talk with Working Group to find out what their needs are and come up with a budget.
- **St. Mary's Federal Legislation and other legislative issues** – John Tubbs:
 - House Committee not giving any dollars away. We are not getting a clear answer regarding dollars we might be getting. There was an unconfirmed rumor that House markup included \$1 million for St. Mary's. No one outside of committee has seen the document because it was not allowed to leave committee room. Senate markup should be available in 2 or 3 weeks. Senators Burns and Baucus have made the request for full \$9.5 million. Appears certain we will not get \$5 million requested for emergency repairs. May only get a portion of the \$4.5 million requested to complete required studies. This is not a surprise for a first time request.
 - Breakdown of \$4.5 million is 1/3 (\$1.5 million) going to Blackfeet Tribe to address environmental issues and review Tribal irrigation project, and 2/3 (\$3 million) going to State for studies related to infrastructure from the diversion dam to last drop. Regardless of final amount received from Federal government, State will honor agreement for a 1/3 – 2/3 split of funds.
 - Since Congress can only appropriate money to a federal agency, any money we get will have to go through USBR. States pushing to have USBR pass those funds down to State and Blackfeet Tribe. How money is spent will be set out in agreements with USBR. State envisions two separate agreements. Blackfeet will have an agreement with USBR on spending their share of funds, and State will have a separate agreement with USBR. This arrangement would put each party (State and Tribe) in the driver seat for how their share of funds is spent.

- One problem we face in getting funding from D.C. is lack of constituent contact with Congressional Delegation. We have yet to bring a contingent of cowboy boots to D.C. Travel to D.C. is expensive and neither the State nor Working Group has funds to offset cost. Working Group needs to have a serious discussion on how to make an impact in D.C.
- John has a lobbyist in D.C. working on some rural water projects. He has considered using him on a temporary basis to push case for St. Mary's. However, it will cost some money. Irvin Carlson said Blackfeet have a lobbyist in D.C. He suggested Blackfeet lobbyist might be a resource for Working Group to use.
- **International Joint Commission Meetings** – Paul Azevedo:
 - International Joint Commission (IJC) will be holding meetings on Montana's request to review 1921 Order governing international appropriation of water between U.S. and Canada. Only information available at the moment is that the meetings will be held towards the end of July. Paul will update Working Group as soon as he knows more.
 - Paul and John spoke with Irvin Carlson and Mike Tatsey by phone on 6/22/04 about IJC meetings. Blackfeet were left out of the original discussions and want an active role in any future discussions with IJC.
 - Question was raised regarding Tribal representation on IJC. Paul responded that IJC is composed of 3 members appointed by President of U.S. and 3 appointed by Prime Minister of Canada. State and Blackfeet can provide input to the IJC, but cannot become IJC members unless appointed by President. State will do what it can to open door for Blackfeet involvement in IJC discussions.
 - IJC web site is http://www.ijc.org/en/home/main_accueil.htm.

Environmental issues associated with operation of the St. Mary Canal System. – Dick Long, USBR.

- USBR has been working with Blackfeet Tribe to address several long-standing issues associated with operation of the St. Mary Facilities. These issues included:
- Winter flow releases out of Sherburne Dam. Current gates incapable of passing low flows without causing damage to structure through cavitation. USBR has looked at several options to address the issue. Appraisal level cost estimate is about \$700,000. Possible to start construction on modifications in fiscal '07. They still must complete required NEPA documents.
- Erosion in Swiftcurrent and Boulder creeks. Resulting deposition of sediment is building a delta into Lower St. Mary Lake. USBR working with Tribe and private consultant on design to control erosion. Appraisal level cost estimate is \$6.6 million.
- Canal loses approximately 50 – 70 cfs (long-term average) to seepage along first 9 miles between headgate and inlet to St. Mary Siphons. This is a fairly high loss for this length of canal. There are both pros and cons to addressing this issue. Seepage supports wetlands and may contribute to sub-irrigation of some hay lands. However, it also contributes to instability of canal along this section and decreases operational efficiency of the system. Current losses prevent U.S. from getting a full 850 cfs at inlet to siphon. Appraisal level cost estimate is about \$17.9 million for an 850 cfs canal. This is a significant amount of money. Cost-benefit ratio may be low.

“St. Mary River Bull Trout and the Endangered Species Act.” Lunchtime presentation by Lynn Kaeding, Chief of Native Fishes Management for the Montana Fish and Wildlife Management Assistance Office, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, in Bozeman.

- Lynn's work is part of a cooperative effort between USFWS, Blackfeet Tribe, Glacier National Park, and USBR. Most of the funding provided by USBR.

- Introduction of non-native species and changes in landscape utilization (logging, mining, etc) have had a negative effect on bull trout populations in lower 48 states. In 1999 all bull trout in lower 48 listed as threatened species (not the most severe listing).
- In 1999 there was very little information available on bull trout within St. Mary basin. At the time USFWS thought St. Mary basin bull trout existed as 3 reproductively isolated subpopulations. Radio tracking studies have shown St. Mary basin supports only two sub-populations. One population lives in the tributary streams above Sherburne Dam. The second, and larger, population exists from below Sherburne Dam all the way up to Creston, Canada.
- Bull trout in St. Mary basin appear to be in better shape than originally thought. Existing population is being negatively impacted by
 - Low winter flows out of Sherburne,
 - St. Mary diversion dam is a barrier to migration, and
 - Entrainment in St. Mary Canal.
- These are not insurmountable issues. Lynn was optimistic about the possibility of delisting the St. Mary basin bull trout populations within his lifetime.

Process Agreement: Paul Azevedo reviewed changes made to Working Group Process Agreement that came out of May 26 meeting at Ft. Belknap. Changes include:

- Add new Section 11 describing duties and responsibilities of Executive Committee.
- Section 6, Item 2i – revise language to read, *“If a participant decides to withdraw from the process, they agree to submit a letter to the Working Group expressing their intent and explaining their reasons for withdrawing.”*
- Section 12 (formally Section 11), item 4 – Add following language, *“Only Basin Members of the Working Group may serve as Subcommittee Chairs”*.
- Agenda called for Working Group to approve Process Agreement at today’s meeting. The Group has had several months to review agreement. Paul stressed that the Agreement is meant to change and grow along with the needs of the Working Group. Approving it today does not lock anything in stone.
- Paul stated he had talked with Mike Tatsey, and Mike was comfortable with the language.
- Matt McCann moved to approve and Larry Mires seconded. The Working Group then approved and adopted the document as presented.

Progress reports:

- **Outreach Subcommittee:** Steve Page - Factsheet is almost finalized. Subcommittee will meet one more time for final edits. It will be distributed to Working Group members before tour on June 24th.
- **Funding Subcommittee:** John Tubbs –
 - To use funds from State Environmental Contingency Account, Working Group must provide a 1:1 match. Group set a fund raising goal for communities (\$25,000) and counties (\$25,000), but have struggled to determine what a fair contribution from each community or county would be.
 - John used 2002 Census data to develop a weighted average based on population to determine each community’s requested contribution. Dollar amount suggested represents about \$1.50 to \$1.75 per capita one-time fee investment. John used 2004 data to come up with a weighted average contribution for each county. Glacier County is included because the economic front end of construction will benefit Glacier County (See Table 1).

- Ft. Belknap Agency is not listed because John could not find any population statistics (apparently it is not an incorporated city). North Havre and Hill County water districts were not listed as they are trying to get off the Milk River water system.
- Counties and cities are currently in their budgeting process so members are asked to pursue these requests promptly.
- Joint Board of Control has contributed \$50,000 already. Walleyes Unlimited has raised \$6,000 as a members' association. Gray Anderson reported that Chinook is poised to donate, but is waiting to see what other communities are going to do. Requests for contributions need to come from constituents within the communities. Larger contributions can only benefit the project and elevate attention given at the State level. Every dollar is being counted and will be matched later on.
- There was discussion on whether or not \$100,000 was going to be enough. Will Working Group have to go back to communities again and again? Lt. Governor Ohs stressed importance of developing a budget for the full \$200,000. The Funding Subcommittee will draft a budget proposal to present at the next meeting.
- By agreement with the Governor's office, State's \$100,000 contribution will be dedicated to engineering services. There is more discretion in how local match funds are spent as long as funds go towards moving the project forward. Working Group should consider prioritizing some of the matching funds to go towards a lobbyist in D.C. John has a lobbyist on contract working irrigation issues (part of Vision 2005) in D.C. If John could find about \$5,000, he could direct lobbyist to put some time in on pushing for St. Mary's. In competition for federal funds, the Group will not be competitive without a lobbyist presence in Washington.

Table 1: Matching Funds Request from Hi-Line Communities and Counties

Community / County	Person Responsible	Amount to Request	Action
Havre	Dave P.	\$13,500	Will contact
Chinook	Gary A.	\$2,000	Contact made
Dodson	Marko M.	\$200	Will contact
Saco	Marko M.	\$300	Will contact
Malta	Marko M.	\$3,000	Contact made
Harlem	Matt M.	\$1,500	Will contact
Glasgow	Larry M.	\$5,000	Waiting for reply
Hill Co.	Dave P.	\$8,500	Will contact
Blaine Co.	Dolores P.	\$3,500	Will contact
Phillips Co.	Marko M.	\$2,500	Contact made
Valley Co.	Larry M.	\$4,000	Waiting for reply
Glacier Co.	Paul Azevedo will follow up		

- **Engineering Review Subcommittee:** John Tubbs. Due to time spent preparing for Legislative Finance Subcommittee meeting, the Request For Qualifications is behind schedule. John has meetings next week with Anne Yates and Kevin Smith to work on the language. Intend to release qualifications in July. Timing may hamper participation by Max Maddox on selection committee due to haying. Would like to have someone hired by September.
- **Contact with Potential Partners:** Paul Azevedo.
 - At May 26 meeting Working Group identified the importance of making this project a state priority not just a basin priority. Group members identified potential partners that could help give the project statewide exposure.

- Reviewed status of contacts identified at last meeting.
 - Working Group needs a way of following the progress of letter writing campaign. Group decided to cc: Paul and the Lt. Governor's office on all letters. Several members suggested putting a general outline for support letters and the fact sheet on St. Mary website (<http://www.dnrc.state.mt.us/stmarycover.htm>).
 - John Tubbs suggested that a deadline of late July would ensure correspondence gets considered for September Congressional committee meetings.
 - Larry Mires stated that people on the Missouri River were not aware of the problems on the Milk River. They are impacted because of the silt needed to sustain the pallid sturgeon and are therefore in full support.
 - Paul Tuss suggested each Working Group member contact their legislator for a letter of support for this project.
- **St. Mary Facility Tour:** Lenny Duberstein of USBR went over transportation logistics, departure times and locations. The Blackfeet Tribe, USBR and DNRC have all provided vehicles for tour. The State will provide snacks and drinks during the trip. Tour will be stopping for lunch at Hook's Hideaway. At noon, Dan McCauley with Entranco Engineering will give a presentation on plans to replace the bridge carrying siphons over St. Mary River.

Public Comment: Lt. Gov. Ohs opened the meeting for comments.

- Marv Cross (DNRC) wanted to acknowledge Walleyes Unlimited for their prompt and generous donation to the St. Mary Rehabilitation Project.
- Paul Azevedo asked everyone to thank the Blackfeet Tribal Council and Tribal Water Resources Dept. for sponsoring lunch and use of Hook's Hideaway for our meeting! Arranged through Mike Tatsey and Marv Cross.
- George Heavy Runner of the Blackfeet Nation voiced concerns of tribal involvement in the process. In the past Tribes has been ignored even though the project is on Tribal land. Hope Tribal involvement this time around is more than just cursory. Tribe values the water, and their needs extend beyond wetlands. Asked Working Group to try and understand how members of the Tribe may feel about the project. Don't be surprised if not everyone supports project. Also asked Group to allow and respect Tribal need to have input to process.
- There was discussion on need to get information on the project out to Tribal members. Paul A. and Karen Filipovich (MT Watercourse) plan to meet with Craig Iron Pipe (Tribal PR) regarding best methods for communicating information to Tribal members. George Heavy Runner suggested Group talk with Tribal Council regarding using local public access/cable access stations to distribute information.
- Dolores Plumage posed the question "How does the Tribe take responsibility to get information out to their people?" and "How can Outreach Committee assist Tribal outreach on this?" The Working Group needs assistance from the Tribe.
- Randy Perez affirmed the Working Group's only task is to deal with rehabilitation of physical infrastructure of St. Mary, and work with Blackfeet in addressing environmental issues associated with St. Mary's. Water rights issues have to be settled through a forum separate from Working Group.
- Joe Weatherwax of the Blackfeet Environmental Organization brought up the Swiftcurrent Creek – Boulder Creek restoration proposal project. Site design from Gary Decker of Westwater Technologies was provided for public viewing.
- Senator Roush (SD 43) addressed Working Group and public regarding the economic impact to Glacier County if this project goes forward and the need to work together to get federal funding. Senator Roush urged the Blackfeet Nation to have a representative at every meeting to keep

informed at every stage. Senator Roush and Ken Galbreath of Babb stated concerns regarding the gravel road from Highway 89 to the St. Mary siphon bridge. The county recently signed for jurisdiction of the road. Increased traffic due to construction raises safety issues. Is it possible to have road paved and install guardrails? John Tubbs said it is a little early in the process to discuss it, but urged public to continue to bring up this topic at public meetings.

Discussion on need to elect a Co-chair of Working Group.

- Matt McCann started discussion on the need for Executive Committee to have a co-chair. Lt. Gov. Ohs serves in the position, but his schedule does not allow him to meet as often as Exec. Committee meets. Lt. Gov. Ohs encouraged Group to think about having a co-chair.
- Group discussed how Exec. Committee co-chair would be chosen. As outlined in Process Agreement, subcommittees choose their own chair from among committee members. Since the Exec. Committee serves as the operational link between the Working Group and State, their role is slightly different from other Working Group committees. Should larger Working Group have some input into selection of Exec. Committee co-chair? Dolores P. and Randy P. felt it was important for all Working Group members to feel involved in selection of Exec. Committee co-chair. Randy P. suggested that co-chair of Exec Committee should be chosen from Working Group at large.
- This led to an even larger discussion on the need for selection of co-chair of entire Working Group. Reasons cited included: need to have someone fill in for Lt. Gov. and concerns with tying fate of Group so closely to Lt. Governor's office. Lt. Gov. Ohs is very committed to project; will the next Administration give it the same attention? Larry M. suggested Group would be remiss if they did not start preparing for changing administrations in Helena. Lt. Gov. Ohs affirmed State's vision that Working Group would assume self-control.
- As currently outlined in Process Agreement, Lt. Gov. Ohs is Chairman for the Exec. Committee and the Working Group. Would co-chair fill both roles? Dave Peterson suggested that since the Lt. Gov. fills both roles, the co-chair should do the same. Lt. Gov. Ohs suggested they be one and the same for continuity.
- Dolores voiced concern that Blackfeet representation was not present, and they should be contacted to ensure their involvement in this process. They have been informed of the importance of their participation, and if they don't have a representative at future meetings, they forfeit right to have a say in selecting co-chair.
- Paul Azevedo said he would contact Mike Tatsey and get his input.
- Matt McCann moved to go forth with concept of co-chair without naming a specific person. Paul A. suggested the group take a month to decide on their co-chair and bring their choice to the next meeting.
- Steve Page moved that at next month's meeting a co-chair of the Working Group be selected. By association that person will also be co-chair of the Executive Committee. Working Group approved motion by census.
- Paul A. was directed to draft language regarding co-chair of Working Group.

Discussion on need for USBR Liaison:

- Matt McCann voiced the need to have a designated contact person at the USBR. Working Group needs to know who at USBR is available to answer questions, clarify the process, and provide a constructive approach to this whole project.
- Jamie Macartney (Acting State Director for USBR) stated the USBR is tied to the project in multiple ways. They are trying to find the best way to be responsive to Working Group without

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being overly involved in the process. Part of Working Group's effort involves facilitating flow of federal dollars to fix St. Mary's. USBR is not in a good position to be asking Congress for money. Reclamation has to implement what Congress directs.

- Matt felt that Reclamation knows more than anyone how this might all play out. Working Group wants to develop a constructive relationship with Reclamation in figuring out how to move St. Mary's forward.
- Jamie disagreed with assessment that Reclamation knows how it will all play out. However he did agree that Working Group and Reclamation need to have a constructive relationship to advance project. Reclamation willing to participate and do all it can to help out, but as a federal agency there are constraints on what they can do.
- John Tubbs stated that Group needs to appreciate position Reclamation is in. Their ability to assist group is limited by federal law and direction from current Administration in D.C.
- Frustration was expressed that USBR may not be providing Group with all the right information. Example given was \$5 million request for emergency reserve funds. Why didn't they tell us it would be a non-starter?
- Jamie: State did ask us for input, but Reclamation's internal chain of command structure did not allow them to respond fast enough. Working Group had a Congressionally mandated deadline to submit legislation, and track was faster than USBR could respond.
- John T. said USBR has been helpful; they provided arguments to defend request. Fact is Congress is not giving money away this year. State and Working Group just have to learn how the game is played in D.C. We learned something this year. Next year we will be stronger.
- Dick Long was identified as USBR contact for day-to-day operational questions on St. Mary. Jerry Kelso (Assistant Regional Director) is an Ex-officio member of Working Group and will be contact for policy information. John Tubbs asked that the Bureau name alternate for both Dick Long and Jerry Kelso.

Action Items:

- Paul A. will check with Irvin Carlson on alternative for Mike Tatsey as Blackfeet representative.
- Executive Committee to meet and discuss basin coordinator & Budget for spending \$200,000.
- Outreach Committee to work on putting together guidelines for writing letters of support.

Agenda Items for Next Meeting:

- Meeting in Havre either July 26th or 27th, to tie in with IJC meeting.
- Elect a Working Group co-chair.
- Rich Moy to give an IJC primer.
- Executive Committee to give a report on budget.
- Engineering Committee to present RFQ for review.

Meeting Adjourned @ 3:45pm